

STUDY AND INVESTIGATION OF THE SHORTAGE OF
RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT

OCTOBER 15 (legislative day, OCTOBER 12), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WHEELER, from the Committee on Interstate Commerce, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. Res. 185]

The Committee on Interstate Commerce, to whom was referred the resolution (S. Res. 185) authorizing a study and investigation with respect to the causes of the existing shortage of railroad equipment for transportation purposes and the means of relieving such shortage, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass as amended.

Senate Resolution 185 was introduced by Senator Langer on October 4, 1943. It was referred to the Committee on Interstate Commerce and was considered by the committee on October 14, 1943.

From the information that the committee has received on the subject matter of the resolution it is apparent that there exists at the present time a serious shortage of railroad equipment, particularly equipment for the transportation of grains, potatoes, and other farm products. In the Northwestern States, for example, there is an acute shortage of boxcars for the transportation of wheat, flax, and other grains. The committee is informed that similar shortages exist in other parts of the country.

While it is recognized that the railroads have been and are performing a splendid service, and are doing their utmost to solve this problem of equipment shortage, it is the opinion of the committee that an investigation and study of the matter, as outlined in the resolution, would bring out all of the facts so that the need, if any, for remedial legislation could receive early attention by the Congress.

The committee recommend the adoption of the following amendments:

Page 1, line 5, after the word "railroad", strike out the words "cars for the transportation of wheat, flax," and insert in lieu thereof the words, "equipment for transportation purposes,".

Page 1, line 6, strike out the words "and other grains in the Northwestern States,".

Strike out all of the language contained in the second paragraph of the resolution, beginning at line 11 on page 1, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

For the purposes of this resolution the committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to hold such hearings and to sit and act at such times and places during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate in the Seventy-eighth Congress as it deems advisable.

A copy of the resolution (S. Res. 185) with the committee amendments is herewith appended and reads as follows (the matter proposed to be eliminated enclosed in black brackets and new matter printed in italics):

[S. Res. 185, 78th Cong., 1st sess.]

RESOLUTION

Resolved, That the Committee on Interstate Commerce, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized and directed to make a full and complete study and investigation with respect to (1) the causes of the existing shortage of railroad **[cars]** *equipment* for **[the]** transportation **[of wheat, flax, and other grains in the Northwestern States,]** *purposes*, and (2) means of relieving such shortage. The committee shall report to the Senate at the earliest practicable date the results of such study and investigation, together with its recommendations for necessary legislation.

For the purposes of this resolution the committee, or any duly authorized subcommittee thereof, is authorized to hold such hearings *and* to sit and act at such times and places during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of the Senate in the Seventy-eighth Congress**[, to employ such clerical and other assistants, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, to administer such oaths, and to take such testimony]** as it deems advisable. **[The cost of stenographic services to report such hearings shall not be in excess of 25 cents per hundred words. The expenses of the committee, which shall not exceed \$25,000, shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.]**

